

## House Resolution No.

**Whereas**, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives always welcome the opportunity to acknowledge milestone events in the histories of Show-Me State churches that have proven down through the years to be exemplary components of local communities and neighborhoods; and

**Whereas**, Saint John's African Methodist Episcopal Church in Kennett, Missouri, was established in 1924 and on September 9, 2007, celebrated the Eighty-third Anniversary of its founding; and

**Whereas**, the African Methodist Episcopal Church was the first black denomination organized in North America and was initially known as the Free African Society in 1787; and

**Whereas**, founded by Richard Allen and a group of slave and free persons from Saint George Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, the Free African Society was renamed as the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1816; and

**Whereas**, the African Methodist Episcopal Church became known for its principles of self-help, mutual aid, and freedom fighting and as the founder of the first black university in America, Wilberforce University, and the first black newspaper, The Christian Recorder; and

**Whereas**, the African Methodist Episcopal Church has established seventeen colleges and seminaries rooted in African Methodism; and

**Whereas**, located on West Commercial Street in Kennett, Saint John's AME Church today is led by the Reverend Hugh Smith, II, who admirably strives to guide his congregation in fulfillment of the denomination's motto, "God Our Father, Christ Our Redeemer, Man Our Brother":

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, join to applaud the history, goals, and accomplishments associated with Saint John's AME Church and to convey to all of those involved this legislative body's most heartfelt best wishes as they celebrate the Eighty-third Anniversary of the founding of their religious institution; and

**Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in honor of Saint John's African Methodist Episcopal Church of Kennett, Missouri.

Offered by \_\_\_\_\_  
 Representative Tom Todd  
 District No. 163

I, Rod Jetton, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. \_\_\_\_, adopted \_\_\_\_\_, 2007.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Rod Jetton, Speaker